

# RIVERLANDS

News from Western Rivers Conservancy

## WRC Gets Award for Work on the Sandy

**T**he Bureau of Land Management's National Director, Kathleen Clarke, journeyed to Oregon's Sandy River on August 3 to present Western Rivers Conservancy and Portland General Electric (PGE) with a "Four Cs" Award.

WRC Vice President Sue Doroff was recognized, along with Portland General Electric Vice President of Administration Arleen Barnett, for WRC and PGE's joint effort to remove dams and protect habitat in the Sandy River basin for the benefit of salmon, wildlife and people. The Four Cs Award honors PGE and WRC for exemplifying the U.S. Department of

**"FOUR CS" AWARD ALSO GOES TO PARTNER PGE**  
the Interior's Four Cs philosophy of "consultation, cooperation, and communication, all in the service of conservation."

"This has been an extraordinarily positive and dynamic partnership and I am proud to give this award to Western Rivers Conservancy and Portland General Electric for all of their fine work," said BLM Director Clarke. "This partnership guarantees that Oregonians will be able to continue to enjoy the national treasure that is the Sandy River."

The Little Sandy River was a beautiful backdrop for the event, which brought together city of Sandy residents, the offices of Sen. Gordon Smith, Sen. Ron Wyden and Rep. Earl Blumenauer, as well as  
*Continued, next page* ▶



WRC Vice President Sue Doroff accepts the BLM's "Four Cs" Award.

## Senate Allots Funding for Goose Creek Project

A BOOST FOR CALIFORNIA SALMON

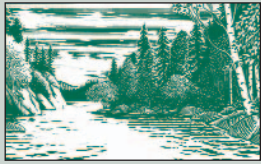
**G**ood news came from the United States Senate in September for Western Rivers Conservancy's Goose Creek project. The Senate included a little over \$2 million for this project in its appropriation to the Land & Water Conservation Fund for the upcoming fiscal year.

Western Rivers Conservancy has signed an agreement with Green Diamond Resource Company to purchase all the private land in the watershed of Goose Creek, the principal tributary to the Smith River. The Smith, a pristine river that flows through majestic redwoods on California's north coast, is the state's only major undammed river and hosts its healthiest salmon and steelhead runs. Goose Creek is a critical contributor of clean, cold water to the Smith, especially in times of drought. By purchasing the 9,483-acre Goose Creek tract and conveying it to the Smith River National Recreation Area, WRC will take



a major step toward guaranteeing the health of the Smith River ecosystem.

Western Rivers is working with the Smith River Alliance and California Trout to build local and statewide support for this land purchase. These organizations in turn worked closely with Congressman Mike Thompson and Senator Dianne Feinstein to secure the Senate appropriation. The Senate will confer with the House of Representatives after the November elections to settle differences between the two houses over funding of the Land & Water Conservation Fund. ■



**Western Rivers**  
CONSERVANCY

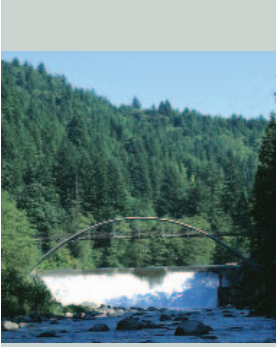
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**CALIFORNIA OFFICE**

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(707) 823-5845  
(707) 823-3876 fax

[www.westernrivers.org](http://www.westernrivers.org)



*WRC is protecting two properties located near Marmot Dam.*

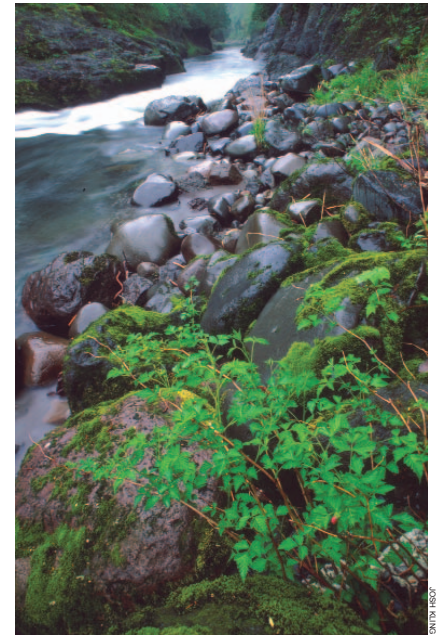
## Conservation Corridor Along the Sandy River Grows Larger

### PGE PROPERTY PROTECTED

Western Rivers Conservancy is close to permanently conserving another 250 acres of land in our effort to create a thirteen-mile-long conservation corridor along the middle Sandy River. The two properties that make up the 250 acres are located just off the Sandy above Marmot Dam.

Portland General Electric donated one of the properties, consisting of 118 acres, to Western Rivers Conservancy

earlier this year. WRC has conveyed this property to the Bureau of Land Management to be included in the Sandy River Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC). Western Rivers Conservancy recently optioned the other parcel, the 131-acre Ten Eyck property. This forested land contains a range of stand ages that provide a diversity of habitat types. WRC is working to convey this property to the BLM in the next several months. ■



*A thirteen-mile conservation corridor continues to take shape on the Sandy River.*

*The BLM's Kathleen Clarke (far left) and Elaine Brong (far right) honored Sue Doroff and PGE Vice President of Administration Arleen Barnett with the "4Cs" Award on August 3. ▶*



PHOTOS: BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

*During a tour of the Sandy project, PGE's John Esler points out features of Marmot dam to BLM National Director Kathleen Clarke. ▶*



### BLM Award, continued

WRC, BLM and PGE staff.

After presenting the award, Clarke toured the Sandy project, including the Marmot and Little Sandy Dams that PGE will remove as part of its commitment with WRC to create a free-flowing Sandy River corridor.

The event also celebrated the 40th anniversary of the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF), which was enacted by Congress in 1964 to conserve land for public use. Thus far, \$8.1 million in LWCF resources have been appropriated to secure lands for the Sandy River project.

In the summer of 1999, WRC, PGE and the BLM formed a partnership to restore and conserve the Sandy and Little Sandy Rivers. In addition to 1,500 acres of lands scheduled to be donated by PGE, WRC is committed to acquiring 3,400 acres of private lands to assemble continuous river corridors along thirteen miles of the Sandy River and four miles of the Little Sandy. ■

WRC staff joined other volunteers to snorkel the Smith's emerald waters for a fish count. The event was put on by the Smith River Alliance in August.



NORMAN SWICHEL

## Staff Pitch In to Monitor the Smith River Fishery

### CALIFORNIA'S MAJOR UNDAMMED RIVER

In August, Western Rivers Conservancy staff donned wetsuits and flippers along with the Smith River Alliance and other volunteers to count fish in the Smith River. The report: The Smith River fishery is strong, and there's more reason than ever to protect this incredible river. That's why WRC is partnering with the Smith River Alliance to protect the entire 9,483-acre watershed of Goose Creek. As the largest tributary to the Smith, California's only major undammed river, Goose Creek is critical to the health of the Smith River fishery.

While WRC is acquiring the land, the Smith River Alliance (SRA) is working to build community support and visibility for the project. The SRA was established in 1980 to provide long-term stewardship of natural resources in the Smith River watershed. The organization is playing an important role in discussions with the Smith River National Recreation Area and Del Norte County about the Goose Creek project. ■

### Your Support Matters!

Now is the time to write a letter to Congress supporting the Goose Creek acquisition. Use our guidelines at [www.westernrivers.org](http://www.westernrivers.org)

## Federal Grant Awarded to Hoh River Project



RENEE NEWTON/STAFF

### CONGRESSMAN DEDICATED TO RIVER

Western Rivers Conservancy's work on the Hoh River will get a major boost from a \$3.7 million federal grant approved by the U.S. Department of the Interior in September. Thanks largely to the leadership and vision of Congressman Norm Dicks, we are moving closer and closer to our



DAN HARRIS

goal of conserving the entire length of the Hoh, one of the finest salmon and steelhead streams in the continental United States. Congressman Dicks' commitment to bringing federal and state support to the project will leave a legacy in the Hoh basin for generations to come.

The \$3.7 million grant will allow the Hoh River Trust to purchase 1,755 acres of quality habitat for bull trout, salmon and marbled murrelet from Western Rivers Conservancy. Western Rivers Conservancy formed the Hoh River Trust along with the Wild Salmon Center to conserve the lower 30 miles of the Hoh in perpetuity for fish, wildlife and recreation.

WRC has already acquired ten miles of Hoh River lands and is nearly half way to its goal of acquiring 7,500 acres. We will convey all of the land we purchase to the Hoh River Trust, an organization dedicated to long-term conservation stewardship and public access to the river. ■

◀ WRC is assembling the lands for a 30-mile conservation and recreation area along the Hoh River.

◀ An avid fisherman, Congressman Norm Dicks has been key to the Hoh River Project's success.



*Ken Grossman is a steward of salmon strongholds along Big Chico Creek (right), where he owns property.*

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS PROFILE

# KEN GROSSMAN

MASTER BREWER, MASTER RIVER GUARDIAN

Western Rivers Conservancy Board member Ken Grossman has taken his success as an entrepreneur hand-in-hand with his dedication to the environment and his community. Ken is president and owner of Sierra Nevada Brewing Company in Chico, California, a company known around the world for its distinctive ales.

Ken owns property on Big Chico Creek, where runs of Sacramento River salmon once thrived but are currently threatened by agriculture and development. In 1999, Ken met Phil Wallin, WRC's president. Ken and Phil shared a vision to protect the Big Chico watershed, and a partnership was born. As WRC assembled a 4,000-acre ecological preserve



*Big Chico Creek, California*

and research lab for California State University, Chico, Ken also purchased additional properties in the watershed, working with the neighbors to keep the land as unspoiled as possible.

In addition to serving on WRC's Board as Treasurer, Ken has been on the Board of the Sacramento River Partners since its inception in 1998. That organization's mission is to foster hands-on restoration for creeks and rivers in California.

Ken's excellent beer has essentially put the city of Chico on the map. Sierra Nevada's ales are internationally acclaimed, winning gold and silver medals at the Great American Beer Festival for many years running. The Chico brewery and pub have brought hundreds of jobs to the community, directly boosting the local economy. The brewery is also well known as a first-rate performance venue, with big names coming to the "Big Room" for lively, intimate performances. This year, Ken produced a series of live concerts filmed in the Big Room entitled "Sierra Center Stage," which airs on public broadcasting television stations.

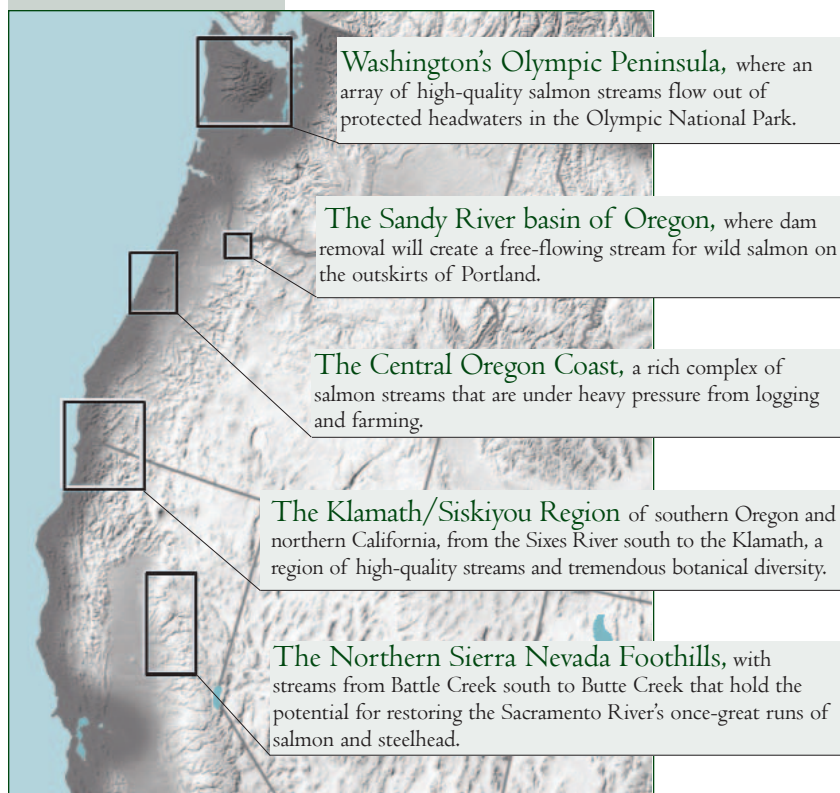
Ken has been an avid hiker since his youth. "I spent literally months in the Sierras hiking and climbing," he said. Ken grew up in southern California and attended Butte Community College and Chico State University, initially pursuing a degree in Chemistry. He credits the community college system for much of his development as a master brewer and entrepreneur – from physics to accounting to fabrication and welding. Ken and his wife, Katie, live on Big Chico Creek and have three children, Sierra, Carrie and Brian. ■

## Priority Areas for Western Rivers Conservancy

Learn more about  
Western Rivers  
Conservancy at our  
website,

[www.westernrivers.org](http://www.westernrivers.org)

Western Rivers Conservancy focuses its efforts on the five regions below, each of which possesses a high concentration of intact stream ecosystems and biological diversity. ■



## First Little Sandy River Lands Conveyed to BLM



TWO RIVER MILES NEWLY PROTECTED

Western Rivers Conservancy has placed its first Little Sandy River lands in permanent protection! The Bureau of Land Management now owns 300 acres along two miles of the Little Sandy that WRC acquired earlier this year. Three properties comprise the 300 acres, including a donated parcel from Portland General Electric. The BLM will manage the land for wildlife and recreation as an Area of Critical Environmental Concern. WRC is working to protect the last four unprotected miles of the Little Sandy's 16-mile length. These conveyances assure conservation of two miles of those lands and bring WRC halfway to our four-mile goal.

Once a blue-ribbon steelhead stream, the Little Sandy has been cut off from its mouth by water diversions since 1904. Removing the dam will allow fish to access ten miles of high-quality habitat. The Little Sandy has pristine forested headwaters on the west slope of Mt. Hood, a robust riparian plant community, low sediment loading, low water temperature and ideal aquatic habitats. Dam removal coupled with land acquisition will give Little Sandy steelhead the best possible opportunity to recover. ■

## WRC Protects Land for City's Water Supply



BULL RUN PROPERTY

WRC protected a twenty-acre parcel in the Bull Run Watershed Management Unit, the main source of Portland's potable water supply. The Bull Run Watershed Management Unit is located on the west slopes of Mt. Hood and within the Mt. Hood National Forest. WRC conveyed the parcel to the Portland Bureau of Water Works, which manages the city's water supply.

The Bull Run parcel previously was owned by Longview Fibre Co., a regional forest products company. By purchasing this property and conveying it to the Bureau of Water Works, WRC is helping Portland's drinking water stay clean. ■

*The Bull Run River is a hugely productive water source for the Portland area.*

## Magneto Brand Advertising Teams with WRC to Protect our Rivers

OUR IN-KIND PARTNER

**MAGNETO**  
BRAND ADVERTISING

[www.magnetoworks.com](http://www.magnetoworks.com)

Western Rivers Conservancy is fortunate to have gained Magneto Brand Advertising as our new upstairs neighbor in the Deilshneider Building. Over the past several months, Magneto staff members Jessica Tomforde, Jay Fawcett and Craig Opfer have volunteered their time and expertise to develop greater recognition for WRC in the western United States and beyond.

The first project Magneto tackled was an ad for Northwest Fly Fishing magazine, which appears in this fall's issue

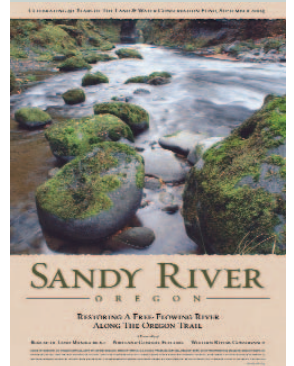
alongside an article written about Western Rivers Conservancy (see next page). This gorgeous, full-page ad resounds with a powerful phrase: "Sometimes, to save a river, you have to buy it." The ad is part of a series that will appear in upcoming issues of Northwest Fly Fishing Magazine.

Magneto then took on a second project for Western Rivers Conservancy, a poster celebrating the 40th Anniversary of the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF). The poster captures the

spirit of WRC's Sandy River Project as a shining example of the conservation strides the LWCF has made across the nation since 1964.

For years to come, this Sandy River poster (right) will hang in the regional and national offices of the Bureau of Land Management, as well as the Washington, D.C. offices of the congressional delegation.

Magneto's continued support of Western Rivers Conservancy is extremely generous, and we thank our wonderful neighbors for their vision and hard work in helping to conserve the great rivers of the West. ■





www.nwflyfishing.net

**“It’s heartening to know that the Western Rivers Conservancy is out there, hard at work developing countervailing strategies and ecosystem approaches to saving watersheds.”**

NORTHWEST FLY FISHING  
MAGAZINE  
FALL 2004

# Northwest Fly Fishing Magazine Highlights WRC’s Achievements in River Conservation

MAGAZINE ARTICLE FEATURED HERE

By **Don Roberts**  
for *Northwest Fly Fishing*

The Western Rivers Conservancy (WRC) might just be the biggest little environmental organization nobody has ever heard of. Admittedly, such a brassy statement, especially a statement containing adjectives as contradictory as “biggest little,” needs some explaining. So I’ll start by clarifying what I mean by the term “biggest.”

From the time of its inception in the early ’90s – launched in concert with a project to acquire a 6,556-acre ranch on the west bank of the Snake River in Hells Canyon – to the present, the WRC has been instrumental in protecting and preserving significant tracts of stream habitat in 42 different watersheds throughout the West. These undertakings, or “missions” if you will, have entailed *everything* from instigating dam removal to buying out mining claims, *everything* from blocking the proliferation of trophy homes on river frontage to acquiring gated-and-locked property for conversion to public access sites on scenic waterways, and, perhaps foremost among WRC’s philosophical objectives, *everything* from the restoration of critical spawning habitat (and “refugia”)

on compromised rivers to the preservation of entire mountain-to-sea drainages, deemed nearly sacrosanct reserves for salmon and steelhead (see “Salmonid Sanctuary on Washington’s Hoh River,” in the Fall 2003 issue). Although there’s not enough room in the space of

decision to remain small and agile. The WRC employs only six full-time staff and one intern, each equipped with a different, yet complementary, set of pertinent skills and technical training – including property law, commercial real estate and development, field biology and public policy.

Unraveling the knotty tangle of legal and land-use issues entwined with virtually every waterway in the country requires more than just a certain mind-set and sentimental affection for rivers. “It’s a true-blue calling,” claims Phillip Wallin, WRC co-founder and current president. “But even more than that, it’s a job for specialists. ... by focusing every day on issues unique to rivers, the Western Rivers Conservancy has become the nation’s foremost specialist in the field of river corridor protection.”



The Sandy River

JOSH KLING

this article to examine in detail such an array of accomplishments, suffice it to say that over the last 12 years the Western Rivers Conservancy has been no less pervasive than persuasive.

OK, so what about the adjective “little”? While most organizations (even activist organizations with idealistic intentions) tend to become top-heavy and, yes, unflinchingly bureaucratic, from the outset the Western Rivers Conservancy has made a conscious

The secret formula for the WRC’s growing list of successes hasn’t been firebrand activism and passion (though there’s plenty of that); it has been the rational and disciplined adherence to clear and prudent protocols. In effect, the WRC practices a form of battlefield-style triage. The organization expends the greatest effort on rivers with the least grievous wounds, the most intact connective tissue, and the strongest vital signs – in other words, those rivers that

*Continued, next page* ▶

can be saved.

The Sandy River, which spills into the Columbia on the urban outskirts of Portland, Oregon, serves as an apt example of the way the WRC does business. Though both the upper and lower reaches of the Sandy, having been designated National Wild and Scenic Rivers, fall within the aegis of sensitive management policies, the middle portion of the river, above and below Marmot Dam, was left hanging – unprotected and (seemingly) unloved. That is, until WRC got into the picture by forming an alliance with Portland General Electric. PGE decided not only to decommission and remove Marmot Dam, but also to donate its land holdings on the Sandy, if the WRC could assure the acquisition of other private lands and thus place the entire 11-mile corridor, including the neglected splendor of Sandy River's Inner Gorge, in protective custody, so to speak.

The WRC immediately developed an aggressive, multi-pronged and more-than-a-little-complex action plan, mustering the forces of both the public and private sectors. As one of the WRC reports summarizes:

"The Meyer Memorial Trust and Paul Allen Forest Protection Foundation put up a fund that we could draw upon for options and down payments. The federal Bureau of Land Management agreed to manage acquired lands as an 'Area of Critical Environmental Concern.' We purchased a critical tract (already permitted for building) that tied together PGE lands in the scenic gorge. With loans from PGE and the Bullitt Foundation, we bought a Sandy River ranch that had received a permit for a major sand and gravel mine adjoining the river. Also, we engineered a complex land



## SOMETIMES, TO SAVE A RIVER, YOU HAVE TO BUY IT.



Since 1990, Western Rivers Conservancy has preserved more than 45,000 acres along outstanding trout and salmon streams like the Smith, Hoh, Sandy and Madison. As the nation's foremost specialist in river corridor protection, our programs safeguard healthy rivers for native fish, wildlife and people.

You can find us online at [www.westernrivers.org](http://www.westernrivers.org). Feel free to give us a call **Western Rivers** and join our campaign to save rivers throughout the West at 503.241.0151. **CONSERVANCY**

exchange with two timber companies that resulted in protecting another mile of the Sandy River and half a mile of the Little Sandy. The Oregon delegation to Congress helped by securing an \$8.1 million appropriation to the BLM for Sandy River land purchases. With the [entire] river corridor protected from development and Marmot Dam removed, the Sandy will become a premier stream for salmon and steelhead and recreation, all within an hour's drive from downtown Portland."

To find out where else the WRC plans to exercise steely, if not stealthy resolve – particularly in such high-profile, biologically diverse areas as Washington's Olympic Peninsula, the Sandy River basin in Oregon, the

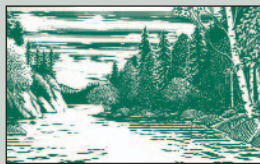
Klamath/Siskiyou region, and the northern Sierra Nevada foothills – consult their website at [www.westernrivers.org](http://www.westernrivers.org).

Considering that our natural endowment, particularly our river spaces, have been chronically and historically impoverished, not to mention plundered, by a churlish and exploitive culture of greed, it's heartening to know that the Western Rivers Conservancy is out there, hard at work developing countervailing strategies and ecosystem approaches to saving watersheds. In effect, the WRC is committed to buying back rivers – the liquid portion, indeed the most vital portion, of this nation's legacy. ■

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◀ *The Fall issue of Northwest Fly Fishing magazine also includes this full-page ad with a clear message about Western Rivers Conservancy's aims.*

**“From the time of its inception in the early '90s ... WRC has been instrumental in protecting and preserving significant tracts of stream habitat in 42 different watersheds throughout the West.”**  
**NORTHWEST FLY FISHING**



## Western Rivers CONSERVANCY

www.westernrivers.org

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### OUR MISSION

*Western Rivers Conservancy acts to protect the most outstanding river ecosystems in the Western United States, primarily through land acquisition.*

### STAFF

Phillip Wallin, *President*  
Sue Doroff, *Vice President*  
Hannah Davidson, *Director of Finance & Administration*  
Josh Kling, *Project Manager*  
Russ Pinto, *California Director*  
David Wilkins, *Development Director*  
Jenny Andrews, *Intern*  
Laurele Fulkerson, *Intern*

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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*Oregon State University, OR*  
Cleve Pinnix, *Retired, WA*  
Phillip Wallin,  
*Western Rivers Conservancy, OR*  
Norb Wellman,  
*Ferguson Wellman Capital Management, Inc., OR*

## David Wilkins joins WRC as Development Director



*David (right) kayaks the McKenzie River with WRC President Phil Wallin in August.*

This past spring, Western Rivers Conservancy welcomed David Wilkins as its new Development Director. David is no stranger to the WRC staff, having worked with Phil Wallin, Sue Doroff and Josh Kling previously at River Network. David brings to Western Rivers Conservancy a proven record of successful fundraising for river and forest protection, most recently as Development Director for Oregon Natural Resources Council. David graduated from the College of Wooster in Ohio, and he enjoys kayaking, hiking and tennis. ■



## GIVE THE WORLD THE GIFT OF RIVERS!

*Support the work of Western Rivers Conservancy*

Our operations are made possible by recent gifts from the people, businesses and foundations listed here. They are funding our work on the Hoh River, the Sandy River, the Smith River and other great western streams. They are getting real, tangible results for their investment. We are grateful to each and every one of them. **Thank you!** ■

### INDIVIDUALS

Peter Bahls & Judith Rubin  
Doug Ballinger  
Brian Barker  
Bonnie Brod  
Mason Browne  
Steve Bryant  
Larry Callister  
David Case  
Gretchen Davidson

Jim & Gerri Davidson  
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Sara Sandford

Ron Steenerson, M.D.  
David Turner  
Arthur Walker  
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Steve White

### FOUNDATIONS

Horizons Foundation  
Weeden Foundation  
Wildlife Forever (Minn.)

### BUSINESSES

Backpacker Magazine  
Garvey, Schubert & Barer  
Magneto Brand Advertising  
Portland General Electric  
Thompson Smitch Consulting  
United Way of King County

## Kathleen Moore joins Board

AUTHOR, PROFESSOR DEDICATED TO RIVERS

Western Rivers Conservancy is delighted to welcome Kathleen Dean Moore as its newest board member. Kathleen is Professor of Philosophy at Oregon State University in Corvallis. She is also the founding director of the Spring Creek Project for ideas, nature and the written word. The Spring Creek Project seeks to fuse environmental science, philosophical analysis and creative expression through writing, "to find new ways to understand and re-imagine our relation to the natural world."



*Kathleen Moore, Professor of Philosophy, OSU*

An award winning author, Kathleen's writing offers a deep and honest reflection on the natural world around us, and brings a love of rivers to a whole new level. She has published two books of essays, "Holdfast: At Home in the Natural World" and "Riverwalking: Reflections on Moving Water." Her most recent book is "The Pine Island Paradox."

Originally from Ohio, Kathleen and her husband looked at the map years back and decided to sink their roots in Oregon, where they saw the most "squiggly, blue lines." ■

Please consider giving to Western Rivers Conservancy so that we can accelerate our river conservation efforts. Tax-deductible donations can be sent to our office in Portland. Please visit our website, [www.westernrivers.org](http://www.westernrivers.org), or call David Wilkins, Development Director (503-241-0151), for more information.